

Public Law 103-108
103d Congress

Joint Resolution

Oct. 18, 1993

[H.J. Res. 218]

Designating October 16, 1993, and October 16, 1994, each as World Food Day.

Whereas hunger and malnutrition remain daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people in the world;

Whereas the children of the world suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition, with millions of children dying each year from hunger-related illness and disease, and many others suffering permanent physical or mental impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is growing concern in the United States and in other countries for environmental protection and the dangers posed to future food supply from misuse and overuse of land and water, loss of biological diversity and erosion of genetic resources on a global scale;

Whereas the world community increasingly calls upon the United States to resolve food problems stemming from local conflicts and civil unrest—such as in Somalia and the former Yugoslavia—calling for the use of peacekeeping forces as well as the provision of emergency food supplies;

Whereas the United States plays a major role in the development and implementation of interregional food and agricultural trade standards and practices, and recognizes the positive role that food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and in the alleviation of hunger;

Whereas although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups, notably Native Americans, migrant workers, the elderly, the homeless, and children, remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas our Government is now preparing a National Plan of Action for nutrition wellbeing in accordance with the commitment made at the recent International Conference on Nutrition;

Whereas the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity and strong public and private programs of agricultural research are required for the United States to remain the largest surplus food producer in the world and to continue to aid the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas the United States is and must remain the world leader in the development of biotechnology aimed at enhancing the improved production, safety and quality of the world food supply;

Whereas the Congress of the United States is aware of and strongly supports plans and preparations for the International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources planned for 1995;

Whereas participation by private voluntary organizations and businesses, working with national governments and the international community, is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations unanimously designated October 16 of each year as World Food Day because of the need to increase public awareness of world hunger problems;

Whereas past observances of World Food Day have been supported by proclamations by the Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States, and by programs of the Department of Agriculture, other Federal departments and agencies, and the governments and peoples of more than 150 other nations;

Whereas 450 private voluntary organizations and thousands of community leaders are participating in the planning of World Food Day observances in 1993, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using this day as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of the hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by study and action and by fasting and donating food and money: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That October 16, 1993, and October 16, 1994, are each designated as "World Food Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe World Food Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including worship services, fasting, education endeavors, and the establishment of year-around food and health programs and policies.

Approved October 18, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 218:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):

Oct. 13, considered and passed House.

Oct. 14, considered and passed Senate.